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LB 179

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, that's my understanding.

SENATOR BOHLKE: And does that physician have to have a specialty in orthopedics?

SENATOR PREISTER: I think they would...they would be an MD, and I think an MD would be able to do that without necessarily having a specialty. But they could also have the specialty.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. I think that, generally, a physician who has a patient, whether it would be for a physical disability, and that physician does not have to have a specialty, particularly in orthopedics, but can make the determination for a physical disability. Also that physician oftentimes treats people for areas of mental illness. And so I would think that with certain guidelines and...that that could be established so that we could have a standard for recognizing those people with mental disabilities. I'm not sure we can do that here today also on Select File. The bill I had introduced was "IPPed" in committee, it's my understanding because of the financial impact that it had, and because of that I think we do, in reality, have to consider that here on Select File. And so, why philosophically I still support obviously what the bill I had introduced, what it intends to do, and I do not think coming up with a definition is insurmountable, I do feel that the fiscal impact is one that the Revenue Committee looked at and I'm...if we make that decision I think it certainly has other ramifications and I'm sure the committee was looking at that for what we wanted to do overall. And so, Senator Robak, I've supported you on the others and introduced a bill, but because of that I'm not...I do not believe I'll be supporting the amendment thus far on the floor. Because of what I thought the committee had reviewed and indicated, we would not be able to do some other things that I think are necessary to do in recognizing some areas of tax relief. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Robak, you are next to speak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker and members of the body. This...the extent...the intent of this bill is not to exclude physical disabilities. It only adds mental impairment.